Conceptualizing Ethnicity and Language in the US

Reconceptualizing Ethnolect as Ethnolinguistic Repertoire

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This talk offers a new way of conceptualizing language and ethnicity, replacing the constructs “ethnolect” and “ethnic language variety” with “ethnolinguistic repertoire.” Based on original research on American Jews, as well as other scholars’ work on African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, and European immigrants, I show how a number of theoretical problems are solved when ethnic group members (and non-members) are seen as making variable use of a repertoire of distinctive linguistic features as they construct their identities within the ethnic landscape of the United States.

Friday, March 19th
3:30pm
Gambrell 250

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